

# WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

*Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant*

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Issue 16 – January 24, 2012

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## **15 Weeks Until the May Primary!**

On Tuesday, January 24 there will be exactly 15 weeks until the May Primary!

## **Candidate Filing Continues – County Candidates In Online Database**

Candidates seeking statewide office continue to file their paperwork with the Secretary of State's Office. The filing period runs until midnight on Saturday, January 28.

There is also an online database of who has filed to run for county offices. Hundreds of candidates have been entered into that database in just the last few days. County clerks are encouraged to keep this database as up to date as possible, so that they may refer the public and media to it. There is a link to the database at the top of the Secretary of State's website.

You can watch the candidate filing live on the Secretary of State's website at [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com), and you can also see an updated list of who has filed to run for state offices by clicking on the link at the top of the page. The webcast will be on from 8:30 in the morning until 5:00 in the evening every day of the candidate filing period.

## **Electronic Voting Systems Security Policy**

Last week, county clerks received a letter from Secretary Tennant regarding the policy in place to secure the electronic voting equipment. The deadline to file this policy with the Secretary of State's Office is Wednesday, February 1. This written policy must include how the voting equipment is secured from tampering and under what circumstances county personnel are authorized to have access to the equipment. County Clerks can submit this policy by mail, by fax at (304) 558-8386, or by emailing it to Layna Brown at [lbrown@wvsos.com](mailto:lbrown@wvsos.com). The letter that was sent to county clerks is

attached to this email, as is a template for use as a guide when submitting the security policy.

### **More Important Dates To Remember**

There are a couple deadlines coming up that you need to remember!

- **January 15-January 30** is the time period county clerks, as the chairman of the board of ballot commissioners, may appoint two ballot commissioners (one each from two recognized political parties) for a two-year term.
- **February 1, 2012:** Deadline to notify Secretary of State of security policy
- **February 8, 2012:** Deadline for ordering precinct change.
- **February 8, 2012:** Adopt policy extending medical emergency absentee voting.
- **February 8, 2012:** Last day for petition for suspension of election official.
- **February 9, 2012:** Notice of emergency precinct change.
- **February 14, 2012:** Candidate withdraw deadline.

### **Text Message Alerts Now Available**

Want the latest election news sent right to your mobile phone? All you have to do is sign up for text message alerts from the Secretary of State's Office. The link to the subscription page is at the top of the Secretary of State's website at [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com). To sign up all you have to do is enter your ten digit mobile phone number and your mobile carrier. Please remember that standard text message rates apply!

### **Campaign Finance Training**

The Secretary of State's Office will be conducting Campaign Finance Training throughout the state in February. The training sessions will be in Martinsburg on February 15, Fairmont on February 22, Wheeling on February 23, Logan on February 27, and Charleston on February 28. The training is primarily intended for candidates and treasurers, but other interested individuals are welcome to attend. The training sessions are free, but space is limited and registration is required. The training will include campaign finance law, filing deadlines, how to use the online campaign finance reporting system, and reviews of the forms and documentation. Attached to this email is a flyer for the event. If you have questions, please contact Missi Kinder at [mkinder@wvsos.com](mailto:mkinder@wvsos.com) or Greg Watson at [gwatson@wvsos.com](mailto:gwatson@wvsos.com). You may also call the Secretary of State's Office at (304) 558-6000.

### **Have an idea?**

Is there something that you want to see addressed in the Election Connection? The goal of this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date about challenges facing election officials in West Virginia and to inform everyone about best practices that are being put into place. If you have an idea for a topic, have a question, or if you think there is a subject that election officials around the state would be interested in, please

do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact the Elections Division by email at [elections@wvsos.com](mailto:elections@wvsos.com) or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at [jglance@wvsos.com](mailto:jglance@wvsos.com). Your input is appreciated.